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bandwidth capability of the switch module 234 is maximally utilized to transport content to the transport processor 150.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 11, 12, 18-21, 23, and 29:

11. In an information distribution system comprising server equipment providing content to subscriber equipment via a high speed asynchronous serial interface (HS-ASI) communications channel, server apparatus comprising:

a switch, for multiplexing each of a plurality of content streams provided by respective server modules to produce an output stream adapted for transport via said communications channel;

said switch receiving non-content data from a data source, formatting said received data for use by said communication channel, and responsively multiplexing said formatted non-content data into said output stream on a bandwidth availability basis.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said switch comprises a buffer for storing said non-content data, said apparatus further comprising:

a switch controller, for determining a bandwidth utilization level of said switch and responsively causing at least a portion of the non-content data stored in said buffer to be multiplexed into said output stream when said bandwidth utilization level falls below a threshold utilization bandwidth level.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said non-content data comprises control data and non-control data, said switch preferentially multiplexing said non-content control data over one of said content data or said non-content non-control data.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:

said switch preferentially multiplexing said non-content control data over said non-content non-control data.